

CHILD NUTRITION AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

No.: 99-801

TO:	Summer Food Service Program Sponsors Adult Day Care Food Program Sponsors Child Care Food Program Sponsors*	ISSUE DATE: January 1999
FROM:	Nutrition Standards Unit	
ATTENTION:	Food Service Directors, Food Service Program Sponsors, Food Program Authorized Representatives, Center Directors, Consulting Dietitians, Food Service Vendors, and Child Care Food Program Directors	
SUBJECT:	Cheese Substitutes	
REFERENCE:	USDA FCS APB:CNP-97-02 and USDA FCS APB- 96-59	

This Management Bulletin transmits information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the elimination of specifications governing the use of "Cheese Alternate Products" in child nutrition programs.

Cheese substitutes (also known as cheese alternates) may be used in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Adult Day Care Food Program (ADCFP), and Child Care Food Program (CCFP) if they are consistent with existing standards of identity as determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Summer Food Service Program

The USDA rule eliminates the reference to cheese alternate products in the SFSP regulations and allows any cheese substitute to be used if it is consistent with existing standards of identity as contained in the FDA rules.

USDA is adding cheese substitutes to the *Food Buying Guide* with a 1:1 credit. A chart on page 2 of Attachment I, entitled "Meat and Meat Alternates," contains information on crediting and should be inserted in your *Food Buying Guide*. Therefore, on page 31 omit the section on "Cheese Products" and replace it with the new section on "Cheese Substitutes."

Child Care Food Program and Adult Day Care Food Program

Cheese alternates were not regulated in the CCFP or in the ADCFP except for child nutrition labeled products. Therefore, there are no specifications to be removed from those program regulations.

There are no restrictions on the use of cheese substitutes in the CCFP and ADCFP. Cheese substitutes will be listed in the *California Department of Education Simplified Buying Guide* as a 1:1 credit. The use of cheese food substitutes and cheese spread substitutes that are consistent with the FDA regulations are also permitted. Use the chart on page 2 of Attachment I, entitled "Meat and Meat Alternates," to determine portion sizes that are creditable towards meeting the meal pattern.

Imitation Cheese

Any foods labeled “cheese product” or “imitation cheese” are not acceptable substitutes for cheese and may not receive credit towards meeting the meal pattern requirements. One exception is the use of Land O’ Lakes 50 percent reduced fat pasteurized process cheese product. Although this product does not meet FDA standards of identity, it may be credited toward meal pattern requirements on an ounce-per-ounce basis. USDA’s notice of determination is attached.

ADCFP sponsors and SFSP sponsors who need further information may contact Kathy Mackey, Child Nutrition Consultant, Nutrition Standards Unit, at (916) 324-0578. CCFP sponsors may contact Kelley Knapp, Child Nutrition Consultant, Nutrition Standards Unit, at (916) 445-6774. All sponsors may leave a message at the toll free number (800) 952-5609.

Marilyn Briggs, Acting Director
Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Division

Kathy B. Lewis
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*CCFP – Day Care Home Sponsors: file in your Day Care Home Nutrition Resource Handbook.

ATTACHMENTS

- I. USDA FCS APB:CNP-97-02. Cheese Substitutes
- II. USDA FCS APB- 96-59, Land O’Lakes 50 Percent Reduced Fat Pasteurized Process Yellow American Cheese Product

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